

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

proud and increasing share in the administration of the State. On behalf of the people of my constituency, I emphatically assert our fervent loyalty to our Royal House and look forward to a fortification of that noble sentiment in the hearts of all concerned, by the loving co-operation between the people and His Highness' Government, in all matters which concern the prosperity, contentment and happiness of the public at large without distinction of caste or creed. It is true that the Council, in its present constitution, does not give the people complete powers of self-determination. But I know that, in matters of political reforms, we, in Native States, are not permitted to go in advance of British India, for which the Paramount Power devises and puts into effect constitutional reforms, from time to time. I am not, therefore, one of those who say that what we got is "unsatisfactory and disappointing". We have got something substantial which we may work to improve and bring up to our ideal in course of time by constitutional methods. Politics, it is said, is a game of "Give and take". But both sides must be careful to avoid creating an impression that the giving is all on one side and the taking is all on the other. The best and the noblest attitude to adopt when coming to the Council is, of course, one of selfless purpose. No one including the Government should come into the Council with one's own axes to grind or one's own grudges to settle; for such an attitude is bound to end in disastrous results to both the Government and the people. I shall, in contributing my quota to the deliberations of this Council, make an honest endeavour to assume such an attitude of mind and hope, the others also will do so.

Within the very short time that we have had to study the budget, I have not been able to deal with the whole range of matters covered by it. Hence I am enabled to deal with only two or three matters, and, that only in a cursory manner, viz., Education, Medical Services and Chittur Irrigation Systems.

Education—Without touching on the policy of the educational system pursued by the State, I congratulate the Government on the steady improvement and advancement made in Education, especially, the

opening of the First Grade College, with the prayer and hope that it will develop into a self-sufficient University for the Cochin State. Every subject of His Highness is proud of the headway we have made.

Female Education—The present advancement of the female education is an object of praise. It is no small matter for congratulation, when we see a Second Grade College for Women in our small State. I am told that the Queen Mary's College at Madras is mostly a Cochin College. It will be no vain talk if I am to foretell that, in a few years, Cochin will have to establish a First Grade College for Women, to be affiliated with its own University. To say the least, our State stands first in respect of female education in India. But it is a matter for investigation whether the large amount now spent on Grants-in-aid is utilised to the best advantage of the State.

Medical—When we are working with a deficit budget, every means should be adopted to cut short the extravagant expenses. Now, we have, in all, excluding the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, 3 Civil Surgeons, 12 Assistant Surgeons and 33 Sub-Assistant Surgeons, with a corresponding establishment. In a small State like ours, this is too many. Every year, the Medical staff (I mean, the higher staff) is seen increasing. Every means should be adopted to cut short the expenses, without affecting the quality and efficiency of the medical work. We should resort to the cheapest market for our medicines and instruments and, if possible, to India alone.

The Ayurvedic System of treatment should be encouraged more liberally. Our State is the hereditary seat of many efficient Ayurvedic physicians. We are more competent to appreciate the value of the system which is flourishing here than anywhere else. The State support is quite inadequate in this direction. Our Government should take a lead and establish an ideal department, for other Native States and the British Government, to follow. On the medical side, this system is in no way—in my opinion—inferior to any other system, and it is infinitely less costly.

I may say a few words about the appointments in the Medical Department. In March last, an